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like to mention. Number one is that this doesn't go into effect until May of 2005. So we have another session...

SENATOR SMITH: Okay.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...to work on this. The second thing is that some of the smaller districts, particularly like the ones Senator McDonald was talking about, there's another financial impact on them, and that is if they're classified as sparse or very sparse. And they are accommodated in the state aid formula, the needs calculation in the state aid formula, for their situation. So there's recognition that you're in a situation where maybe you only have 150 students or less in the K-12, but there's simply, geographically, no reason you can do any more than that. And that is accommodated in the funding formula. So that's why I say this program would be more oriented toward the ones that are not sparse or very sparse, have school districts very close by, so that they...it was possible for a merger to occur.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. And so the sparse, that affects their state aid, but sparseness does not affect whether they would be beneficiaries of the lottery dollars or not?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's right. They could qualify for this program, even if they're sparse. It would sort of be a...or very sparse. It would sort of be an extra incentive, because if there were a way they could figure out to merge, then they could benefit from this program, even though there is some extra financial support for them because...in the state aid formula, because they are sparse or very sparse.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Thank you. And thank you, Senator Raikes. I know that your voice is probably leaving you, and I apologize for belaboring that point. But I think it is an issue that we need to revisit next year, and it sounds like Senator Raikes is willing to do so. I believe that that is an issue we need to tweak, so that we can make sure that the smaller schools and those in an appropriate situation receive the funds. And I think we need to draft the language so that we can...